

Message Text

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43

ACTION FBO-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 A-01 /019 W

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R 071440Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1871

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LENINGRAD 0025

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ABLD, UR

SUBJECT: LENINGRAD RESIDENCE CHANDELIERS

REF: LENINGRAD 2000

1. YESTERDAY WE RECEIVED FROM UPIP (SOVIET SERVICE BUREAU FOR CONSULAR CORPS) LETTER STATING THAT UPIP "IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR INTENDS TO REMOVE FROM THE RESIDENCE THE CHANDELIERS AND SCONCES BELONGING TO OUR GOVERNMENT" AND INVITING US TO SET A "CONVENIENT" TIME FOR THIS TO BE DONE. WE HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED RECEIPT OF THE LETTER AND PROMISED A REPLY.

2. THIS UPIP ACTION NO DOUBT REFLECTS GROWING PIQUE WITH US ON OUR INABILITY TO RESOLVE CHANDELIER QUESTION AS WELL AS OUR REFUSAL TO SIGN UP FOR PAINTING AND MAINTENANCE WORK IN OFFICE BUILDING AND RESIDENCE AT EXAGGERATED PRICES THEY HAVE IN MIND. IT POINTS UP THE URGENT DESIRABILITY OF SOLVING THE FORMER QUESTION FOR ONCE AND FOR ALL SO THAT WE CAN FOCUS ON THE LONG-TERM PROBLEM OF HOW TO HANDLE PAINTING AND MAINTENANCE IN A LESS CONTENTIOUS ATMOSPHERE. WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT UPIP'S LETTER IS POLITICALLY INSPIRED, CLEARED OUTSIDE UPIP, OR REFLECTS ANY ADVERSE CHANGE IN THE ATTITUDE OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES TOWARDS THE CONSULATE GENERAL, EVEN THOUGH IT STRIKES US AS UNNECESSARILY CURT AND ABRUPT.

3. WE ASSUME THAT THE ALTERNATIVES SET FORTH IN REFTTEL FOR RESOLVING THE CHANDELIER QUESTION ARE STILL OPEN TO US. WE
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WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE AN EARLY DECISION BY THE DEPARTMENT

TO ENABLE US TO MAKE SOME REPLY TO UPIP AS SOON AS MAY BE.
FOR THE REASONS NOTED REFTEL, WE DO NOT BELIEVE WE SHOULD PERMIT
REMOVAL OF THE CHANDELIERS (IF THAT IS THE DEPARTMENT'S DECISION)
UNTIL SUCH TIME AS REPLACEMENTS ARE ON SITE, WHATEVER UPIP'S
WISHES ARE.
NEUBERT

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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